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REFERENCE: [REDACTED]

ATTACHMENT TO L-4121
14 SEPTEMBER 1967
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HIGHWAY RIVER CROSSINGS
XOM CA TRANG, NORTH VIETNAM
1757N 10549E

(SEE NPIC BRIEFING BOARDS L-1158 AND L-1641)

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS MULTIPLE HIGHWAY RIVER CROSSINGS ON ROUTE 15 IN THE XOM CA TRANG AREA, INDICATING A DETERMINED EFFORT BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO MAINTAIN THEIR SUPPLY ROUTE INTO LAOS VIA THE DEO MU GIA (PASS).

2. BACKGROUND:

THE XOM CA TRANG AREA WAS STRUCK TWICE IN APRIL 1965 WHEN THE XOM CA TRANG HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER THE RAO CAI [REDACTED] WAS DESTROYED. THE XOM CA TRANG HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER THE NAM QUAT [REDACTED] WAS PROBABLY DESTROYED AT THE SAME TIME.

RECONNAISSANCE PHOTOGRAPHY [REDACTED] REVEALED THE FIRST KNOWN VEHICULAR CABLE BRIDGE IN NORTH VIETNAM. THE TECHNIQUE EMPLOYED CONSISTED OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CABLES AND REMOVABLE SECTIONS OF BRIDGE DECKING IN ORDER TO MAKE AN APPARENTLY UNSERVICEABLE BRIDGE SERVICEABLE. THE DECKING WAS PLACED ON THE CABLES AT NIGHT IN ORDER TO ACCOMODATE VEHICULAR TRAFFIC, AND REMOVED DURING THE DAY TO LESSEN THE DANGER OF U.S. AIR STRIKES.

NGA review(s) completed.

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3. MISSION READOUT:

6X1 [REDACTED] REVEALS FOUR SERVICEABLE FORDS,
ONE PROBABLE SERVICEABLE CABLE BRIDGE, ONE DESTROYED AND ONE PARTIALLY
DESTROYED HIGHWAY BRIDGE, THREE DESTROYED/DISMANTLED CABLE BRIDGES,
ONE DUMMY CABLE BRIDGE, AND ONE DISMANTLED DUMMY CABLE BRIDGE.

4. REMARKS:

DESPITE CONTINUING U.S. AIR STRIKES AND INCLEMENT WEATHER,
WHICH CONSTANTLY CHANGE THE STATUS OF THE RIVER CROSSINGS IN THE
XOM CA TRANG AREA, THE SUPPLY ROUTE HAS NEVER BEEN OBSERVED CLOSED
FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME BECAUSE OF THE NUMEROUS ALTERNATIVE
CROSSINGS AVAILABLE.

6X1 [REDACTED]

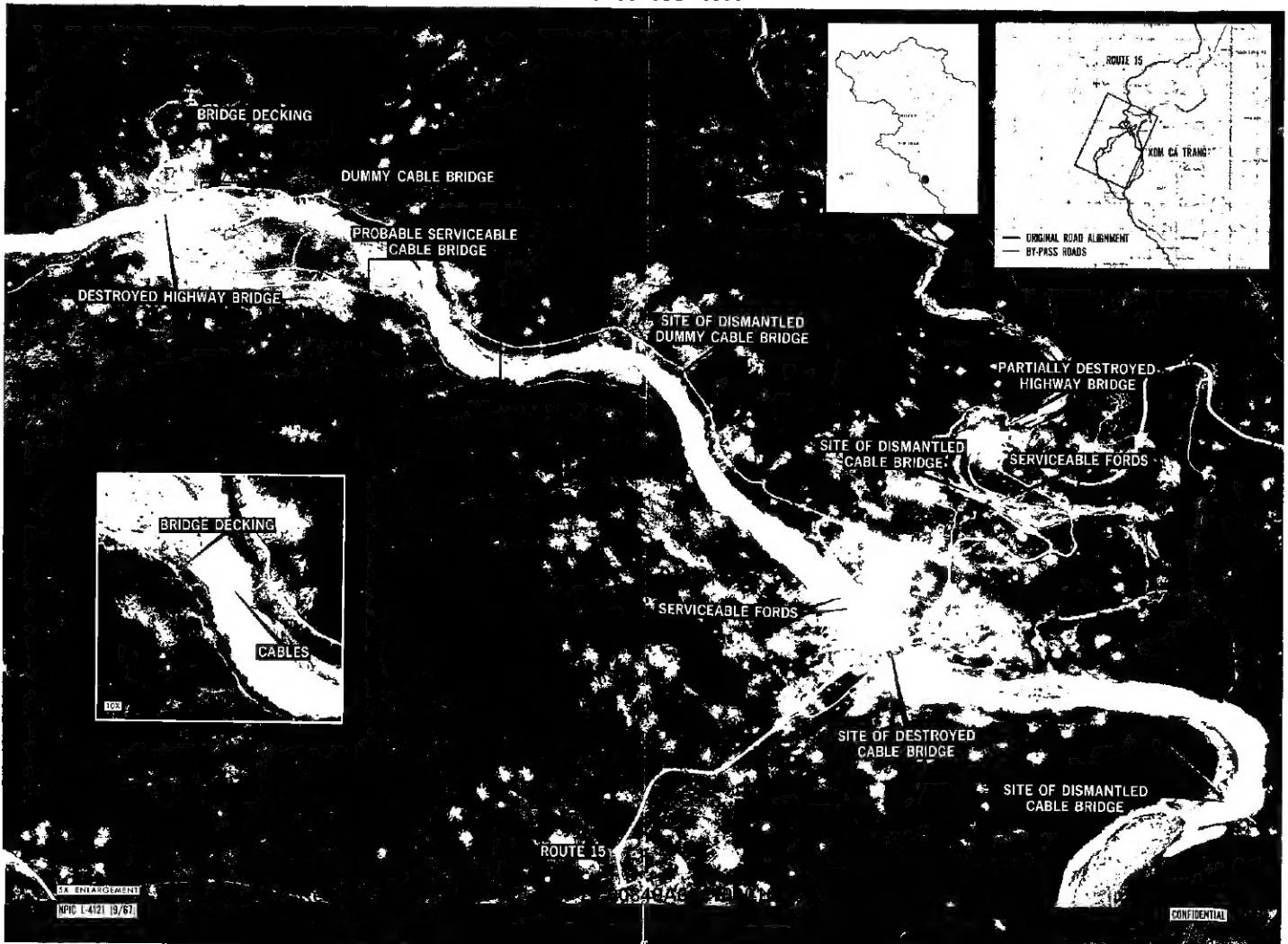
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 XOM CA TRANG, NORTH VIETNAM
 17-57N 105-49N



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